

Simulation Experience Replicated by Two Additional Health Networks

In December of 2011, MCHIP, along with the local Departmental Health Services and the Ministry of Health, led a simulated obstetric emergency exercise to test the quality and efficacy of the health system's response in the health network of Roboré. This exercise helped the network tangibly identify the strengths and weaknesses in their capacity to respond to such emergencies, and stimulated the network leadership to work together to address the gaps. MCHIP and USAID's technical assistance in the province of Santa Cruz ended at the end of 2011. The simulation exercise in Roboré was the culmination of MCHIP's work.



Nurse Ruth Galvez, the Director of Reproductive Health Services in the Santa Cruz Departmental Health Services, participated in the Roboré simulation and saw the motivating effect that this exercise had on the network's health providers, community members, and municipality representatives, and decided that she needed to replicate the experience elsewhere. She believes that "this is a good strategy that should be replicated in the whole country to know what the response capacity is for these emergencies among the health services, the community, and the municipality."

Having participated in the Roboré experience and learned from MCHIP how the simulation was organized, Nurse Galvez began to seek financial and political support to replicate the simulation in two additional networks, linking the initiative to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. She identified



two networks that had not received technical assistance from MCHIP, Obispo Santisteban and Andrés Ibáñez. The support she generated provided refreshments and transport for the exercise. Nurse Galvez was also able to secure an alliance with the Nur University to film the simulation.



There were two participating secondary hospitals: Montero Hospital and El Torno Hospital. Montero Hospital is located in the municipality of Montero, 60 km from the city of Santa Cruz. It is a secondary hospital that serves as a referral center for three sub-regions of the province of Santa Cruz. The majority of the population works in agriculture in the rural areas, and in both the formal and informal economies in the city of Montero. El Torno hospital is 38 km. from Santa Cruz. It is 3 blocks off the highway that connects El Torno with the cities of La Angostura and Santa Cruz.

The majority of the population migrated from the interior of the country and work in agriculture. Nevertheless, resources are scarce, and they often work as tenant farmers.

The tertiary hospitals that serve as referral hospitals for Montero and El Torno are the Japanese Hospital and Dr. Percy Boland Women's Hospital, both of which are in the city of Santa Cruz. Driving access to these hospitals is often made extremely difficult by heavy urban traffic during rush hours, which complicates referrals.

Quotes from Nurse Galvez:

“We only applied what we learned.”

“The simulation strategy is an innovative strategy that allows us to evaluate the response capacity of the services that are working in quality improvement processes when faced with an emergency, as well as the community organization and the means of communication that is the reality that we face daily.”

“The premise is to save lives and in this we are working based on what we learned from MCHIP's technical assistance.”